Promotion of co-operative sector

†*453. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Co-operative sector has a crucial role in country's development;

(b) if so, in which economic areas is the Co-operative sector playing a leading role; and

(c) the plans Government have to promote the Co-operative sector?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Co-operative Sector plays leading role in the following economic areas:—

(i) Disbursement of agricultural credit;

(ii) Procurement and disbursement of agricultural inputs like fertilizer, seed, pesticides etc.;

(iii) Marketing of consumer goods;

(iv) Production and processing of sugar and oilseeds;

(v) Procurement and marketing of cotton;

(vi) Milk procurement and processing of milk products;

(vii) Development and marketing of fisheries;

(viii) Generation of employment in rural areas.

(c) Government of India has formulated the following plans to encourage the co-operative sector:-

(i) **Co-operative Reforms:** The Central Government has enacted the new Multi State Co-operative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002 which aims at providing full functional autonomy and democratic management to the societies. It has also formulated a National Policy on Co-operatives in consultation with the State Governments. The Government is now pursuing with the State

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Governments to implement the legislative and policy reforms in co-operative sector. This will enable co-operative societies to work as self-reliant and democratically managed economic enterprises.

(ii) **NCDC Programme for Co-operative Development:** In order to improve the income of the members of the co-operatives and for creation of various facilities, the Central Government has a scheme of assistance to NCDC programmes for co-operative development. The NCDC Amendment Act has been amended to enable it to finance more activities allied to agriculture like animal husbandry products such as milk, meat, skin, wool, and the service sector and industrial co-operatives including goods produced by the cottage and village industries. The Central Government is implementing the following schemes through NCDC for promotion of co-operatives:—

(a) Assistance for co-operative marketing, processing, storage programmes in co-operatively under/leastdeveloped States/UTs;

(b) Share capital participation in Growers Co-operative Spinning Mills;

(c) Integrated Co-operative Development Projects in selected Districts;

(d) Assistance to National Co-operative Federations;

(e) Rehabilitation of Co-operative Processing Units proposed for Tenth Plan;

(f) Assistance for development of women co-operatives proposed for Tenth Plan.

(iii) **Human Resource Development in Co-operative Sector:** In order to professionalise the co-operative sector, the Central Government has initiated a number of human resource development programmes. It is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Co-operative Education and Training through the National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) and National Council of Co-operative Training (NCCT).

(iv) **Revamping of Co-operative Credit Structure:** In order to revitalise and revamp the credit societies *i.e.* the cooperative banks, a scheme of revitalization of Co-operative Credit Structure has been finalised by the Central Government under which 60% financial assistance required would be given by the Central Government and 40% by the concerned State by way of bonds. This would be linked with cooperative reforms.

Decline in scientific research

*454. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI R. KAMARAJ:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientific research in India declined in quality and quantity and India slipped from 8th position in 1980 to 15th by 2000, in terms of research papers *i.e.*, from 16,000 papers, those number declined to 12,000, as per International Science Citation Index; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of financial allocations for research;

(c) whether it is a fact that such research papers increased from 924 to 22,000 in China, 175 to 12,000 in Korea, during that period;

(d) whether, despite investments in Mathematics, Chemistry and Biology, the country has not produced any Fellow of Royal Society or Nobel laureates; and

(e) the measures taken to improve scientific research?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) As per Indian Science Abstracts, scientific research papers published by scientists in India have increased from 14,339 in 1980 to 25,642 in 2000. As per the Science Citation Index, India's rank was 8th in 1980 and 15th in 2000 publishing 14,983 and 12,127 research papers respectively. However, the coverage of Indian journals in Science Citation Index database has been inconsistent during the last 2 decades. At present the database covers only 10 journals while in 1980, the number of Indian journals was 36. The quality of research papers has improved as the number of citations received by scientific research papers from India increased from 10,540 citations in 1995 to 18,154 citations in 2001 as per Journal Citation Report of Science Citation Index.